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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**In re Application of:** Austin  
**Application No.:** 09/966,686  
**Filed:** October 1, 2001  
**For:** A Method for Contracting, Loading or  
Crimping Self-Expanding and Balloon  
Expandable Stent Devices  
**Examiner:** Jimenez, Marc Quemuel  
**Group Art Unit:** 3726

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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Docket No.: S63.2-10142

AMENDMENT

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated February 13, 2002.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please replace claims 27 and 35 with the following amended claims:

27. (Amended) A method of reducing a stent in cross-section comprising the steps of  
a) providing a plurality of closely spaced wedge-shaped dies, the dies disposed about a  
circle and forming an aperture;  
b) placing a stent within the aperture;  
c) moving the dies so as to reduce the size of the aperture and apply an inward force to  
the stent.

35. (Amended) A method of reducing a stent in cross-section comprising the steps of  
a) disposing a stent in an aperture of a device for reducing a stent in cross-section, the  
aperture defined by at least three closely spaced dies disposed about the aperture;  
b) reducing the size of the aperture by moving the dies inward, the dies applying a force to the  
stent to reduce the stent in size.